

Green Hill
Near Long Island
Campbell County
Virginia

HABS NO. VA-419

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Headquarters Office
for District of Virginia

"GREEN HILL"
PLANTATION

Address: Virginia Road No. 728 near intersection with
Virginia Road No. 633, Long Island Vicinity,
southern part of Campbell County, Virginia.

Present Owner
and Occupant: L. H. Holland and brothers

Present Use: Residence and farm.

Brief Statement
of Significance: Outstanding example of early 19th century
Virginia plantation architecture surviving
with little or no alterations. A good re-
presentation of a self-sustaining community
in the early and mid-1800's.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Land originally owned by William and Moses Fuqua. Later sold to Samuel Pannill in 1797, who may have built the rear portion of the main house at that time. Building activity probably spanned many years in time. The estate passed to a son, John Pannill, in 1864, who died unmarried. The property was inherited by a daughter, Judith Wimbush, and subsequently sold to Mr. Randolph. In later years, it was purchased at a public sale by James Franklin, Sr. who bequeathed it to his nephew, Samuel Hale. Present owners are the Holland Brothers.
2. Date of erection: Rear wing of the main house, possibly built in 1797, appears to be older than the two-story front section. The granary building, dated 1821, is only structure with a date stone.
3. Original plan of the plantation: "Green Hill" is located in the southern part of Campbell County near the village of Long Island. The buildings are grouped into two distinct parts; the main house with its dependencies was designated as "Upper Town," and is situated on a plateau overlooking the Staunton River. In its original state, probably just the rear portion of the main house existed with the main driveway or entrance coming from what is now considered the back of the place.

When the two-story front portion was added, the orientation of the house was changed and the main entrance was made to enter from the south. In addition to the main house there are several dependencies; the kitchen, laundry, slave quarters, loom house (?), duck house (?), ice house, office (?), and two barns, one log and one frame. At a further distance away from this grouping of buildings and still standing are the granary, tobacco barn and the ruins of a carriage house, stables, spring house and the like. All of these buildings seemed to be connected with cobblestone walks and drives that still exist in remarkably good condition.

Nearer the Staunton River was located the second group of buildings forming a community known as Pannill's or "Lower Town." A grist mill formed the nucleus of this community with the miller's house, store, chapel and additional quarters for slaves and tenants nearby. Nothing remains of these buildings except portions of their walls and foundations. It is known that Pannill operated a ferry and later a toll bridge over the Staunton River suggesting that buildings probably existed across the river in Pittsylvania County.

- B. Supplemental Material: The following report on "Green Hill" was prepared by F. O. Briggs, Jr., Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, Virginia, June, 1960:

Green Hill, near Long Island, Campbell County, Virginia, is on an elevated plateau overlooking the Staunton River. It is believed this house was built by Samuel Pannill on land he purchased from William and Moses Fuqua in 1797.

The house is L-shaped and the rear wing may be older than the main portion. As you enter the front hall, the parlor is to the left. There are glass fronted cabinets on either side of the fireplace with blue-tinted glass panes. I do not know the original or present use of the room on the right. There is no access to the rear wing except by going on to the side porch. This porch has fine round brick columns and, according to old timers, the original road came up through an avenue of cedars (none remaining) to this porch, so this may have been considered the "front." The room on the ground floor of this portion has fine panelling, chair rail high, and the one room above has dormer windows on the porch side only.

The abundance of rock on the estate allowed free use of it in construction of roads, outbuildings and walls. It is a reddish sandstone and was abundant, also, across the Staunton River in Pittsylvania County where Pannill owned land and where he is supposed to have built a stone chapel for the slaves.

The buildings which surrounded the dwelling, most of which are still standing, were designated as "Upper Town." These included a loom house, kitchen, double laundry with water and waste connections of stone, a duck house and quarters for the house servants. Also included would be the stables, carriage house, granary and ice house.

The store, chapel and mill near which were the more extensive slave quarters, the miller's house, etc., formed a community known as Pannill's and also referred to as "Lower Town." Near the mill was a ferry operated by Pannill which he later replaced with a toll bridge. Flour ground at Pannill's mill was shipped by batteaux to Weldon and Gaston, North Carolina. The large stone chapel for the slaves in Pittsylvania County is reported still standing, though I have not seen it.

The six hundred acres Pannill originally purchased from the Fuqua family were enlarged by him to about five thousand acres before his death in 1864 at 94 years of age. The estate was inherited by his son, John Pannill, who died unmarried. A daughter, Judith, married John Wimbush and they acquired Green Hill. Wimbush sold it to a purchaser named Randolph, who, tradition says, paid for it with fraudulent bonds for which he was shot by one of Wimbush's sons. The homicide was tried in court but was acquitted. Later Green Hill was purchased at public sale by James Franklin, Senior of Lynchburg, who bequeathed it to his nephew, Samuel Hale in whose family it remained until fairly recently. It is now owned by the Holland family.

There is still standing a large, partitioned stone tobacco barn in the four corners of which are small, windowless rooms used as breeding rooms for the slaves.

All the buildings were connected by stone paths and roads. The lawns, gardens and some of the fields are separated by stone walls. The wall about the house has small openings for cats and dogs to enter.

The house is of brick and the side porch has refined, round, brick columns. There is a large brick dependency to the rear with a loft above and a wine cellar beneath. The duck house is of brick. All other dependencies are of native stone. The stables, carriage house and an unidentified building near them are in ruins, as is the mill. The granary and tobacco barn are in fair condition, though there is a large crack running from roof to ground in the tobacco barn caused by lightning some years ago. Much of the stone roads and paths (each building was connected to every other and to the house by either a road or path of stone) are still discernible. The fine garden is now a hog lot; several huge old box trees only remain.

REFERENCES

Clement, Maud Carter. The Turn of the Wheel (Danville, Virginia: J. T. Townes Company, 1956), p. 65.

Early, Ruth Hairston. Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches (Lynchburg, Virginia: J. P. Bell Company, 1927), pp. 148, 473-476.

Lancaster, Robert A., Sr. Historic Virginia Homes and Churches (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1915), pp. 421-423.

Prepared by Orville W. Carroll, Architect
National Park Service
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"GREEN HILL" MAIN HOUSE

Address: Virginia Road No. 728, Long Island Vicinity,
Campbell County, Virginia

Present Owner: L. H. Holland and brothers

Present Use: Residence

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

"Green Hill" plantation was built by Samuel Pannill, who first bought 600 acres from William and Moses Fuqua in 1797, and added to and developed the plantation until his death in 1864. The rear wing of the main house was possibly built in 1797, and appears to be older than the two-story front section.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Main house constructed of brick, has a symmetrical facade, elaborate cornice. Rear wing, somewhat older, has round column made from molded bricks.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rear wing approximately 22' x 34', one-and-a-half stories. Two-story front block 22' x 45' without porches. House and rear ell has full basement. Orientation of house changed from east to south entrance after two-story front section was constructed.
2. Wall construction: Red brick laid in Flemish bond. No glazed brick used. Workmanship not too precise but orderly. Flat arches over masonry openings made of brick.
3. Chimneys: Three end chimneys, centrally located in and built flush with exterior walls. Brick construction with four course corbelled chimney cap.
4. Porches: (1) Front porch about 8' x 12'; gable roof supported by six columns and two pilasters. Constructed on a stone foundation containing steps or access from

three sides. Covered with a tin roof. (2) Shed roof to east covers east door and basement entrance. Supported by a brick wall and one brick pier. Covered with a tin roof. (3) Porch on rear ell supported by round columns made from molded red brick that forms the base, shaft, and capital. Constructed on a stone foundation. Roof covering is a standing seam tin roof.

5. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs on both parts. Rear gable roof continues over lean-to porch; all covered with a standing seam sheet tin roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Cornice has modillion blocks with cyma recta and reversa crown molding, and bed molding. Cornice returned back on brick end walls with molded verge boards on gable ends. Gutters and downspouts on two-story portion only.
- c. Dormers, cupolas: Rear ell has three narrow dormers on east side of roof only. Dormers have gable roof with enclosed pediments denticulated. Cornice contains crown mold similar to eaves of main house.

C. Technical Description of Interior: Unknown at present time. Interior not accessible.

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